

the Office has not provided an adequate reason and/or example to support its conclusion of patentable distinctness or shown that a burden exists in searching all the claims.

The Office has characterized the inventions of Groups I and II as related as process of making and product made. Citing MPEP §806.05(f), the Office states that the polymer in Claims 21 and 24 and elsewhere are easily synthesized by ordinary synthetic methods which do not involve a polymerization initiator. Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement on the grounds that the Office has not shown how the polymers in, e.g., Claims 21 and 24 and elsewhere in Group II can in fact be produced by ordinary synthetic methods which involve no polymerization initiator. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

Regarding the requirement for electing a single disclosed species, Applicants respectfully traverse on the grounds that the Office has not shown that the various species are patentably distinct, and therefore Applicants respectfully submit that the elected species is provided for initial search purposes only. Applicants note that should the elected species be found allowable, the Office should expand its search to include the generic claim. MPEP §803.02.

Finally, Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement on the grounds that the Office has not show that a burden exists in searching all the claims. Applicants respectfully point out that thousands of U.S. patents have issued in which many more than two subclasses are searched, and the Office cannot reasonably posit that a burden exists in searching only two subclasses.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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